THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women Act, 1990 adequately empowers the National Commission for Women to investigate and examine matters relating to safeguards provided for women and suggest remedies, whenever necessary, which are required to be acted up by concerned authorities. In the exercise of such powers to fulfill its functions specified in Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission, during the first three years, has:

(a) reviewed several laws affecting women and recommended amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to overcome the shortcomings in such legislations;

(b) looked into over 800 cases relating to atrocities, deprivation of women's rights etc. and taken them up with the appropriate authorities;

(c) organised 23 workshops/seminars/conferences on issues concerning women and published reports thereon,

(d) commissioned about 31 study projects on gender issues;

(e) organised public enquiries on 'women in unorganised sector' and 'crimes against women';

(f) set up six Expert Committees on various subjects, including social security, laws and legislations, justice delivery system, custodial justice and development of tribal women to study special issues.

(g) organised consultations with lady members of Parliament and NGOs on issues concerning women.

Review of Education Policy

4165. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately undertaken a review and revision of the Education Policy according greater priority to Primary Education and privatising higher education to divert funds from higher education to primary education;

(b) if so, what decision have also since been taken in the matter; and

(c) the details of the projects to be taken in implementation thereof in the years to come?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The extant policy is the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which was last reviewed and updated in 1992. Universalisation of Elementary Education has been accorded high priority in the policy. The NPE also envisages encouragement of non-government and voluntary effort, subject to proper management.

Technology for conversion of mineral

4166. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest technology for conversion of mineral; Calcium Bentonite, to Sodium Bentonite, is available in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to seek help from other developed/advance countries in this regard for the benefits of Indian exporters/dealers. and

(c) what other facilities Government propose to give in this field

perticularly with regard to exploration of bentonite and fuller's earth so as to give more incentives to our dealers|exporters to save foreign exchange for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The non-swelling Co-bentonite referred to as Fuller's Earth is converted to Na bentonite (synthetic bentonite) where exchangeable calcium oxide is replaced by sodium ion by the addition of the required quantity of an hydrous soda ash (Na2So3).

(b) The expertise for conversion is already available in the country.

(c) The Government of India has announced revised National Mineral Policy, 1993 and MM (R&D) Act, 1994 to encourage private|foreign participation in the development of mining sector. In addition, to boost the export of minerals, benefits are available under 80 HHC for export of processed minerals and ores specified in the XIIth schedule.

मध्य प्रदेश में रायपुर जिले में हीरे और ऐलेक्जेन्ड्राइट की खोज

4167 **श्री राघवजी :** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के रायपुर जिले उन स्थानों के नाम क्या है, जहां पर हीरे और ऐलैक्जेन्ड्राइट पाए जाने की संभावना है ;

(ख) इनके खनन हेतु किन-किन कंपनियों के प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अब तक प्राप्त हुए प्रस्तावों का कोई अध्ययन किया है ; यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं और उस कम्पनी का नाम क्या है जिसे खनन की अनुमति प्रदान की गई है ;

(घ) इस संबंध में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार की क्या सिफारिशें हैं;

(ङ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार की सिफारिशों के विरुद्ध कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(च) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त शिकायतों की जांच कर ली गई है ; और

(छ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) से (छ) रायपुर जिले के मर्नापुर और देवभोग क्षेत्रों में हीरे और एलेक्जेंडराइट्स का मिलना ज्ञात है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने दिनांक 27.4.94 को ऐसे कुछ क्षेत्रों के बारे में पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस देने के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किये थे जिनके जवाब में 23 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए। राज्य सरकार ने इनमें से निम्नलिखित आवेदनों को चुना है और खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम 1957 के तहत केन्द्र सरकार की पूर्व स्वीकृति मांगी है :—

(1) मैसर्स डि बीयर्स (इंडिया) प्रोस्पेकिटंग लिमिटेड 17300 वर्ग कि०मी० क्षेत्र के लिए ;

(2) मैसर्स सी०आर०एएक०मप्लोरेशन (इंडिया) लि. 7960 वर्ग कि० मि० क्षेत्र के लिए ; और

(3) मैसर्स एश्टीन माइनिंग इंडिया प्राइवेट लि. 1465 वर्ग कि मी. क्षेत्र के लिए।

केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकार के उपरोक्त सुझावों को प्राप्त किया है। उपरोक्त प्रस्तावों के बारे में कुछ आपत्तियां भी प्राप्त हुई है । माननीय उच्च न्यायालय जबलपुर के समक्ष एक याचिका भी दायर की गई है और उसके परिणाम का इंतजार है ।